In the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy digital data transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that hides a plural-bit auxiliary code within data captured by the data capture system prior to its transmission by the data transmission system.

2. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 1 in which the data capture system captures audio and includes a microphone.

3. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 1 in which the steganographic encoder operates transparently to a user of the cell phone, wherein substantially all of the data transmitted by the cell phone is steganographically encoded.

4. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a cell phone, comprising:

receiving input information;

steganographically encoding the input information to hide a plural-bit auxiliary code therein; and

transmitting the steganographically-encoded information by wireless in a digital format.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 which includes:

receiving the input information in non-digital form;

expressing the received information in digital form; and

encoding the digital form of the input information.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 in which the input information is audio information.

7. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 1 wherein the steganographic encoder additively combines an overlay signal with the data captured by the data capture system.

8. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 7 wherein said overlay signal is dependent both on said plural-bit auxiliary code and on said data captured by the data capture system.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said steganographic encoding includes additively combining an overlay signal with said input information.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said overlay signal is dependent both on said plural-bit auxiliary code and on said input information.

11-15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that hides a plural-bit auxiliary code within data captured by the data capture system prior to its transmission by the data transmission system, said steganographic encoder being responsive - in part - to the data in which the hidden code is encoded.

17. (New) The cell phone of claim 16 wherein said steganographic encoder represents the plural-bit auxiliary code in a particular manner, depending in part on the data in which the hidden code is encoded.

18. (New) The cell phone of claim 16 in which the steganographic encoder controls the amplitude of the encoded code in accordance with features of the data in which the hidden code is encoded.

19. (New) The cell phone of claim 16 wherein the auxiliary code depends, in part, on data received from a remote station with which said cell phone wirelessly communicates.

20. (New) A cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that hides a plural-bit auxiliary code within data captured by the data capture system prior to its transmission by the data transmission system, said steganographic encoder introducing a pseudo-random signal to the data in which the hidden code is encoded.

21. (New) A cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that hides a plural-bit auxiliary code within host data captured by the data capture system prior to its transmission by the data transmission system, said host data comprising sample values, and said steganographic encoder serving to increase certain of said sample values and decrease others.

22. (New) The cell phone of claim 21 wherein at least some of said increases are in the range of 7.5% to 100%.

23. (New) The cell phone of claim 21 wherein the steganographic encoder is responsive to dynamics of the host data in its hiding of the plural-bit auxiliary code within said host data.

24. (New) A cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that hides a plural-bit auxiliary code within host data captured by the data capture system prior to its transmission by the data transmission system, said steganographic encoder serving to increase the entropy of the host data.

25. (New) A method of operating a cell phone, comprising:

receiving sampled input information;

steganographically encoding the input information to hide a plural-bit auxiliary code therein; and

transmitting the steganographically-encoded information from said cell phone in a digital format;

wherein said encoding comprises – in a pseudo-random fashion - increasing the values of certain samples and decreasing the values of other samples, said increasing and decreasing depending, in part, on dynamics of the sampled input information.